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Early east of the Case-Gheiler-Bavaria line and in the vicinity of the Nerone station.

The Pina brigade and the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Regiments, advancing with admirable calm, captured 400 prisoners and a number of machine guns. They wanted to know the enemy two of our batteries of medium caliber which were promptly put into action again against the enemy.

On the Pina the struggle was concentrated in some sectors. West of Casale, a hostile attack was completely repulsed.

More to the south, in front of Pagar and Zennaro, our counter-offensive action began on the night of June 18-19. It was continued until the 21st, when taken up on to the positions which we held the day before.

The enemy suffered losses equal to his strenuous resistance. Several hundred prisoners remained in our hands. In the area west of San Dona di Piave the enemy attempted a strong attack against Lison (northwest of Treviso). At first he was arrested by our fire. He renewed his attack four times in vain until, exhausted by the exceptionally heavy losses suffered, he was forced to yield in the face of the dauntless valor of the Sardinian, of the Sassari Brigade, the 151st and 152nd regiments, which were valiantly helped by the Seventh Division of the 103rd Infantry, the Italian Bersaglieri and by a Bersaglieri cyclist column.

North of Cortellazzo (at the mouth of the Piave), the enemy was repulsed by the Bersaglieri and the Italian Bersaglieri, capturing 200 prisoners, afterward firmly holding the positions.

See Baratta in Missing.

At Cavazzochina (at the eastern end of the swamp region near the coast) we extended our bridgehead.

The aviators, in spite of adverse weather conditions, were active in their usual activity. Enemy machines were brought down.

For the first time our airmen and those of our allies had as their companions during the day, American pilots, who as soon as they arrived at the front expressed a desire to participate in the battle.

The valiant Major Baratta, who had won his thirty-fourth victory, did not return; the 19th instant from an heroic war flight.

AUSTRIANS ASSERT THEY HOLD ITALIANS

They Admit, However, That Pressure Is Very Great.

VIENNA, via London, June 21.—The Austrian official communication issued today says:

The enemy continued his attacks yesterday with undiminished violence to wrest from us the successes we won west of the Piave. His efforts again were vain. All his attacks were broken down before the unflinching resistance of our heroic troops.

The struggle on the Carso plateau and on the Montello continued to be of great importance. The Austrians, in their hastily constructed trenches destroyed waves of enemy storming troops. Everywhere our soldiers stood the ground in the hand to hand fighting.

On a front of twelve kilometers the enemy concentrated thrusting troops amounting to entire regiments in order to shake the wall formed by our brave men. The tremendous consumption of their power forced the Italians to reserve reserves after reserves into the battle.

Apart from their sanguinary losses the number of prisoners also increases daily. Thirty-two hundred prisoners were captured on the Carso plateau, but one on the Montello alone; of these 3,000 were taken by a single Hungarian infantry regiment.

The Hungarians, Austrians, Austrian reserves and Hungarian Honveds have added a new and honorable page to their glorious history as attackers as well as defenders in hot engagements, which have cost them many brave men. On the mountain front artillery duels prevailed yesterday.

CIVILIANS AID ARMY

Battling on Piave

Even the Women Remain to Care for Wounded.

By J. M. JEFFRIES.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times.

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ON THE ITALIAN FRONT, June 18 (delayed).—We are not quite out of the woods. Montello still presents a difficulty which may require a little time to solve and there are curious symptoms in the Austrian attitude, symptoms which are not quite explicable, especially the uncanny silence of the artillery, but all promises well.

In the fighting to block the road to Venice the soldiers were seconded by the civil population. The women of the village were falling and tearing out the walls of the houses, many women would not leave their kitchens. Some knelt and prayed, some busied themselves quietly preparing food and doing what they could for the wounded soldiers.

There were not enough inhabitants to embarrass military movements and it seems to have been left to them to go away, so that they were not in the line yesterday, men and women all utterly unafraid, even the small boys. The women are extraordinary. Where the soldiers are wearying and with reason, steel helmets and carrying gas masks, the women were seemingly content with the familiar large black kerchiefs tied around their heads.

The Austrians were able to enter their territory to the edge of Lison, but the village itself was held by the men of a famous brave soldier, who died with desperation. Twenty women and children were gathered in a front line dug-out, where the women all knelt and told their beads as shells burst around them. Later, when the firing ceased, they were got out.

The Austrian commanders had given the soldiers medals to commemorate the fall of Venice in advance of that event; some of the men wore them on their caps. The medal has a double headed eagle attacking a man, with the words "Piave, 1918," on the reverse.

BELIEF THAT AUSTRIA WILL TRY NEW DRIVE

Swollen River Brings Present Offensive to End.

By the Associated Press.

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, June 21.—Fresh rains have turned the Piave River into a driving yellow flood, which has made it difficult, dealing a fatal blow to the Austrians on its western bank, tearing up the communication lines and preventing the movement of the steady pounding of the Italian guns of the Duke of Aosta's Third Army.

The satisfaction which the Italians over the present situation is matched only by the anger of the Austrian command. According to prisoners the swollen river has caused the withdrawal of a series of difficulties which prevent the Austrians from making headway either on

the Montello plateau or that section of the country lying between the Treviso-Mestre and the Piave-Monte Berico-Mestre Railway lines, where the fighting has been hard and cruel all the while. The Austrians were pressed at every point and harassed by machine guns of the river by the Italian small guns and also by pieces belonging to the navy mounted upon floats, which move about the waterway at will.

It is considered a question of a brief lapse of time before the Austrians will begin another offensive. It is said that this time they probably will concentrate their efforts, instead of scattering them as they did a week ago, when they followed the German plan of attempting to make a big general offensive over a long line before revealing their point of attack.

It is thought that the plan was dictated by Gen. Ludendorff, the German commander, who did not realize that the Austrians were too weak to make such an attempt, lacking as they did not only artillery but general officers and officers of the staff.

The report of the presence of Emperor Charles on the battle front is considered one of the signs leading to the belief that the Austrians will feel the necessity of renewing the attack.

No fear is felt in Venice that the Austrians will get there. The correspondence on visiting the city found an atmosphere of excitement and the Austrians were too weak to make such an attempt, lacking as they did not only artillery but general officers and officers of the staff.

ITALIANS RESOLUTE.

Premier and War Aid Minister Praise Army After Victory.

PARIS, June 21.—A despatch to the press from Milan says that Premier Orlando and Minister of War Poincaré, who returned to Rome after several days' visit to the battle front, gave the following impressions of their trip.

"My impression," said Premier Orlando, "can be summed up in three words: tranquility, resolution and confidence. The Austrians have committed mistakes in intelligence and heroism. The supreme command, even in the culminating moments of battle, has maintained perfect contact with the whole army, which has been admirably reconstituted."

Signor Bissolati said: "Our army never has been so strong morally, so united or so determined. It understands today the great responsibility it has assumed before the entire world."

ENEMY AGAIN STOPPED.

Unable to Advance Beyond Montebelluna Railway.

ROME, June 21.—The efforts of the Austrians to widen the northern salient on the Montello, the keystone of the Piave front, toward the west have failed. Fresh Italian forces were tried in the night.

Toward the south, the Premier stated, the enemy again succeeded in crossing the Montebelluna Rusegna Railway at several points near the Sileva station but was promptly stopped.

On the lower Piave the Italians gained more ground.

The enemy's losses during the day were enormous, the Premier added. The Italians took several hundred prisoners.

CRISIS IN AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE PASSED

Continued from First Page.

divisions, including 50,000 bayonets, over to the west bank of the Piave. A wounded officer taken prisoner yesterday says they still have considerable reserves. Their sappers managed to throw new bridges over the Piave behind the salient which they are striving to extend. The Austrians are trying to push forward in the direction of Treviso from a little further north.

Wednesday, June 19.—The planest of the Austrian offensive is the attempt at a first class offensive to the initiative has passed to the Italians. It is they who are now attacking to regain fragments of the line.

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U. S. TROOPS HOLDING 39 MILES AT FRONT

In Addition Large Numbers Are With the British and French Forces.

SOON TO TAKE OFFENSIVE

House Military Committee Told That Army Will Be Ready in September.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Members of the House Committee on Military Affairs learned today that American troops are now holding thirty-nine miles on the battle front in France. This mileage, War Department officials said, is held by American troops alone, and these troops are commanded by American officers.

This information came to members of the House committee at one of their regular sessions. It was given by Secretary Baker, Gen. March and the War Council at the War Department. Although the situation as described to-day by the Secretary of War and Gen. March was said to have been vastly encouraging.

War Department officials asserted that a number of the Havilland combat airplanes, which have been sent to France and production is steadily increasing. It was also said the machine gun situation has shown material improvement. The British and French troops recently have been sent across the sea. Production of the heavy machine guns, however, has not yet reached the stage of mass production.

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TRIBUTE TO U. S. MEN IN TEUTONIC LETTER

Crack Division Opposes Americans, Prisoner Writes.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, June 21.—Why the formidable German Twenty-eighth Division was placed in front of the American troops north of Chateau Thierry and also why a prize regiment of that division now is in the front line is shown by a letter taken from a prisoner.

The letter was written June 10 by Grenadier Landauer of the Grenadier Regiment 110 to his relatives in Germany. It is Grenadier Landauer himself who is in the front line. His letter is eloquent testimony to the impression that the Americans have made on the German Emperor's best troops. The letter reads:

"As far as my health is concerned, I am faring well—and that is the most important thing. We again are in the front line because the American division opposite us has achieved some success, and we as a model division, are to make good this loss."

"At the present moment we are lying in the front line in the woods where we have made dugouts and furnished them with all sorts of stuff from a nearby inn. Of course we are getting all sorts of knocks from the enemy's artillery, especially at night, shoots at us accurately."

"Up to now everything has gone pretty well. The hope is to be relieved soon and get some rest. If one has been for more than fourteen days in this mixup, one has had more than sufficient."

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WEST FRONT QUIET EXCEPT FOR RAIDS

British Patrols Take Prisoners in Local Operation East of Arras.

GRAVE EVENTS IMPEND

French Experts Look for Renewal of Thrust by Prince Rupprecht.

LONDON, June 21.—Activity on the fighting fronts in France, except on the American sector, was even less than usual to-day. The British made a small raid last night in Aveluy Wood, which is a little north of Albert, and others near Hebuterne and Boyelles and on both banks of the Scarpe east of Arras. A few prisoners were taken.

German attempts to recapture ground northwest of Meiris, in the Lys salient, were repulsed. The French report that they have improved their positions near Faverolles and Hauteveignes, southwest of Soissons.

French military experts are still quite sure, however, that grave events are impending on the British front. They point out that the army of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria has had a long rest now and is ready for a new effort. Some elements of this army were in the disastrous and futile attempt on Tuesday to capture Rheims, which was repulsed by the British and French.

The Post of Munich says the feast could have been celebrated by a measure of clemency and humanity instead of a military operation. The English and French without containing words of thanks to his own people. The paper concludes that the Anglo-Saxon races are powerful enough to accept the Emperor's challenge.

Following are the official reports on the operations in France and Flanders:

BRITISH (NIGHT).—In last night's raids north of the Scarpe Scotch troops penetrated German trenches, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy's garrisons and captured a number of prisoners.

A number of dugouts and several machine guns were blown up and destroyed.

Nothing of special interest occurred to-day.

BRITISH (DAY).—During the night we captured a few prisoners and machine guns and inflicted many casualties on the enemy in raids and patrols.

Several hostile attempts to recapture the ground gained by us yesterday morning northwest of Meiris were repulsed with loss to the enemy.

FRENCH (NIGHT).—There is nothing to report from any of the battle fronts.

FRENCH (DAY).—The French have improved their positions north of Faverolles and in the region south of Hauteveignes. A score of prisoners remained in the hands of the French.

GERMAN (DAY).—The enemy has kept up violent reconnoitering thrusts along the whole front.

Southwest of Rheims Italian prisoners were taken. The British and French troops were repulsed everywhere.

North of the Scarpe the British and French attacks broke down with sanguinary losses.

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GERMAN MORALITY LOW, SAYS CHURCH

Religious Paper at Odds With Kaiser's Statements.

AMSTERDAM, June 21.—The German church review, the first section of which is published by the Protestant Kreuz Zeitung of Berlin, seems likely to make unpleasant reading for Emperor William, in view of his frequent utterances in praise of the piety and high morality of the German people.

The review declares the task of the administrative Government departments as to what is right and wrong. The highest law seems to be profiteering and amusement.

Lamenting the laxity of present day German morals the review incidentally and gravely condemns the proposal emanating from Cologne to legalize bigamy which would permit a man to marry again while his first wife is still living.

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WILSON BUSY WITH RUSSIAN SITUATION

President Visits Lansing and Baker in Offices for Conferences.

QUICK ACTION SOUGHT

Report of Raymond Robins on Slavic Conditions a Big Factor.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—President Wilson is giving most careful consideration to every angle of the Russian situation. Conferences which he held today with Secretary Lansing and Secretary Baker, making personal visits to their offices, were regarded as highly significant in view of the increasing agitation both in the Senate and in diplomatic circles in favor of allied intervention.

Gen. H. M. Berthelot of France, who headed a special mission to Russia not long ago, had a conference with the President and his cabinet members today. He is known to have made an earnest plea for action.

Dr. John R. Mott, member of the American mission to Russia, also has been at the White House. No statements were forthcoming as to the reasons for the President's visits to the War Department and the State Department.

The President remained with Mr. Baker more than half an hour and then saw Mr. Lansing.

There is good reason to believe that the President is now going over the reports that have been made him with a view to ascertaining if action is practical. The attitude of the General Staff up to now has been to concentrate on sparing the troops from the western front.

Gen. March and others are understood to believe that all efforts for the present should be concentrated on the western front.

Great interest is taken here in the arrival to-day at a Pacific port of Raymond Rob